

In the matter of Japanese War Crimes and  
in the matter of the voyage from Amboina  
to Java in May, 1944, and the murder of  
Cpl. Taylor.

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Affidavit.

I, No. 1008458, L.A.C. THOMAS WILLIAM  
ADAMSON, 106 P.R.C. R.A.F., Colford, with permanent home  
address at 61 Fifth Row, Ashington, Northumberland, make  
oath and say as follows:-

1. On May 1st, 1944, I embarked with 200 other British Prisoners of war for Java. We were all of us sick as the result of privations and hard labour in Liang Camp, and we were being taken back to Java. The ship was a Japanese transport of about 3,500 tons. Although we were sick, no proper accommodation was made for us. Some of us were allowed to lie on the hatch covering one of the holds, with a tarpaulin over us for cover, the rest had to lie down where they could. Our food was two meals a day consisting of rice and half a pint of water.
2. After about ten days we arrived at Macassar in the Celebes. We stayed there about a day and left for Java, on May 12th. Up to that time there had been no incident on board. On May 11th Corporal Taylor had stolen some fish and one of the guards had caught him and told Serjeant Major Mitaraya who was in charge of us on board the ship. This Serjeant Major was nick-named "Yellow Boots". At the time "Yellow Boots" did nothing more than hit Corporal Taylor a couple of times and then left him. "Yellow Boots" was drunk at the time as he had come on board from Macassar in that condition. During the evening of May 12th, it started to rain and we were allowed to take shelter in an empty coal bunker and although the door was closed we were allowed to go on deck by a small hatch-way. Corporal Taylor got on deck through this little gangway but was stopped by a Korean guard who took him to the Serjeant Major. Taylor explained that he was going to the latrines but the Serjeant Major did not believe him. I was on the hatch-way at the time and I saw the Serjeant Major bring Taylor out on deck and begin to beat him unmercifully. He used heavy sticks and for about half an hour "Yellow Boots" beat Taylor up and down the deck, whenever he fell down "Yellow Boots" kicked him on the ground. Finally Taylor was left lying in the deck moaning and half conscious. The Serjeant Major then got his sword out and after pricking the prostrate Taylor once or twice

he took a great swipe at him which partly severed his head from his body. We were not allowed to go to Taylor's assistance and he was left there for some minutes until "Yellow Boots" ordered us to throw the body over-board. We tied some big pieces of coal to him and then threw the body over-board.

3. I witnessed the whole of this incident. I cannot say whether "Yellow Boots" was drunk at the time, he certainly had been the day before when he came on board from Macassar. I cannot say whether he had been drinking since. During the beating up of Taylor the Dutch interpreter called Mollett tried to explain to "Yellow Boots" that Taylor was doing nothing wrong but it had no effect on the Sergeant Major who simply ignored him and went on till he finally beheaded him.

4. The following day the Serjeant Major got all the officers on parade, that is Flying Officer Peath, Warrant Officer Farvard, the Dutch doctor and the medical orderlies. He first beat the medical orderlies and Peath. After he had finally finished with them he started on Harvard. Harvard retaliated at first and the two of them began wrestling all over the deck. "Yellow Boots" was much stronger than Farvard and it was not long before it looked as though Farvard was going to be killed. Every now and again during the struggle "Yellow Boots" would break a medicine bottle over Farvard's head, he picked those bottles out of a crate which was on the deck. Finally Farvard who was a mass of blood broke loose and started to run away. "Yellow Boots" snatched up a rifle but luckily some of the guards took it away from him and then some of the Japanese Merchant Navy came along and took the Serjeant Major away. I would describe this man, Mitaraya, as being large for a Jap, about 5' 10" in height, 12½ stones in weight, very powerfully built, well made, upright and smart in appearance. He had the usual close cropped black hair and wore spectacles. He had a round face and otherwise was very much like a Japanese. We landed in Java on May 16, 1944, and I was sent to hospital.

(Signed) T. W. Adanson.

SWORN by the said THOMAS WILLIAM ADAMSON, at  
Ashington in the County of Northumberland  
on the 1st day of March, 1946, before me.

(Signed) W. N. Craigs  
A Commissioner for Oaths.

口述書

私、トーマス・ウィリアム・アダムソン、一〇〇八四五八号

P. R. C. 英国航空隊 コーファード

原籍地 ノーサンブラント・アシングトン・フィフスロウ・ナニ番地

宣誓ヲ行ヒ次、コトヲ申シマス

一九四四年五月一日 私、ジャバニムカツテ他、二百人、押房ト共、ニ乗船シタ。私達ハミンナ、リヤング収容所ニオケル窮乏ト重労働ノタメニ病氣ニテリジャバへ送りカヘサレトコロデアッタ。船ハ三五〇トジバカリノ日本運送船デアッタ。私達ハ病氣デハアッタ。ニ私達ノタメノヤントシタ設備ハナクッタ。幾人カノモ、ハ或船艙ノ上ノ昇降口防水外套ヲ被ヒニシテ昇降口ニ横タハルツラエルセタガ残リ、ノモ、ハネラレトコロヘネサケレバエラナクッタ。私達ノ食ヲ一日二回テ米ト半バイントノ水デアッタ。

ニオヨソ十日ノ後ニ私達ハセレスノマカサルニツイタ。コニ、一日バカリ止リ五月十一日ニジャバへ送ッタ。ソノ時デハ船中デ何事モオコエナクッタ。五月十一日テイラー伍長ガ少シバカリ魚ヲ喰フ人、衛兵ガ彼ヲツカマヘ航海中私達ノ監督ヲシテナクミタラヤ。曹長ニ話シタ。コ曹長ハ黃色イ長靴ト蟬名サシテ年タ。ソノ時ニハ黃色イ長靴ハタダテイラー伍長ヲ二度打ツタゲテ何モセズ放シタ。黃色イ長靴ハマカサルカラ船ニツタ時ト同様ニ酒ニ酔ツテ年タ。五月十二日ノ夕方雨ガフリ出シテ私達ハ空ノ石炭庫ノ中ヘ避難シテモコイトイハタ。扉ハシツテ年タケレド私達ハ小サイ昇降路ヲトホツテ甲板ヲトホルツラエルサシタ。テイラー伍長ハコノ小サイ舷門ヲ通ツテ甲板ヘ上ツタガ朝鮮人ノ衛兵ニトメラシ曹長ノトコロヘ連シテ行カレタ



No. 2

DOC 5149

テイラーハ便所へユクトコタト説明シタガ曹長ハソレヲ信用  
シカツタ私ハソノ時艀口ニ居テ曹長ガテイラーヲ甲板へ  
運出シ無慈悲ニ改リハシメタキミタ彼ハ大ッウ烈シク彼ヲ  
打テ甲板ヲ改リオガウ約世分引マシ彼ガ倒レルト黄色ク長  
靴ハ彼ヲ地ニ蹴倒シタトウトウテイラーハウメキナガラ半分  
正氣ヲウシナツテ甲板ニ横ニナツテシマッタヌルト曹長ハ劔ヲ  
スイテ倒レタテイラーヲ一二度刺シテカラ大キク振り下シテ  
彼ノ頭ト胸ヲ一部切離シテシマッタ私達ハテイラーヲ助ケニユク  
コトヲ許サセカッタソシテ「黄色ク長靴」ガ彼ノ体ヲ水中ニ棄  
テ、エマヘト命シルマデシバラクソノマニナツテキタ私達ハ彼ノ体ニ  
大キク石灰ノ塊ヲイックカ結ヘツケテ水中へ棄テタ。

(次頁へ續ク)

Doc 5/149

No. 3

私ハコノ事件ノ全件ヲ目撃シタ。私ハ黄色イ長靴ガソノ時酔ッテ  
キタカドウカハイヘヌガソノ前日マカサレカラ船ニ乗ッテキタトキハ  
タシカニ酔ッテキタ。彼ガソノ時以後酒ヲインデキタカドウカハイヘイ  
ライラーヲ投ッテキタ間ニモソトトイフオランダ語ノ通訳ガ黄色  
イ長靴ニ向ヒテイラーハ何モ更イコトヲシテキタデハナイトイフコト  
ヲ説明セトシタガ越長ハソレニ耳ヲカサズ知ラヌ顔デトウトウテイラー、  
首ヲ斬ッテシメタ  
次ノ日越長ハ將校ヲ皆整列サセタ。白トイフハ飛行將校トース下  
士官ハバード、オランダ人医者ト医療看護兵デアリ。彼ハ最初ニ  
医療看護兵トースヲ投ッテシメシニ彼等ヲ投リ終ヘテカラ  
彼ハバードヲ投リニシタ。バードハ最初ヤリカヘシニ人  
甲板中ヲ組ンデコロゲマフタガ黄色イ長靴ハバードヨリズ  
ト強ク同モリ。バードハ殺サレサウニエタ。争ヒ、最中ニ  
度々黄色イ長靴ハバードノ頭ニ甲板ノ上ノ板アミ竹籠カ  
トリ上ゲタ。藥ビヲ頭ノ上ニ投ゲツケタ終ヒタリサン血ヲ流シタ  
バードハ血ガ出サウトシタ。黄色イ靴ハ銃ヲヒツカガ幸ヒテニ衝兵  
庫ガラモトリ。日本商船員カトホリカリ曹長ヲ連シキツテシタ。而シテ  
ハ日本人ニテ大キス身長大キス。大抵十寸体重十二ストーニ半デカガ強ク身体キク  
安勢ヨク丈夫ナ男デアッタ。彼ハ普通ノ髪ヲキタトオツテ眼鏡ヲカキテタ  
カイ顔デソノ他ノ長キ金メ日本人之カダ。私達ハ一九四年九月十六日  
ジャバニギ私ハ病院ニ送リタ。』